

# STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN



## PREFACE

The following extracts are taken from my Blog site which no longer exists. However it is hoped that by rendering part of the Blogs, this may encourage Catholics, both men and women, to involve God and his Blessed Mother more into our daily lives. We must practice what we preach, for it is by our fruits that we will be known. We must pray harder for our Church worldwide, for Spiritual strength, protection, holiness and truth. Offer each day to the glory, praise and honour of our God and his Blessed Mother.



Reflections of an 80 year old Catholic by Hugo Magee

“By your prayers and efforts, the one who saves a soul from hell, saves his own soul as well” (St. John Vianney)

Always remember to practice what you preach

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## THOUGHTS OF A 80YR OLD CATHOLIC IN TODAYS MODERN WORLD

(AIDED BY EXTRACTIONS FROM BLESSED CARDINAL  
NEWMAN, BISHOP FULTON SHEEN AND ST. AUGUSTINE)

In today's world of overbearing materialism, it can be very difficult to live out a spiritual life. So many distractions draw us ever further away from God and his holy church. A major influence on our spiritual lives is the gospel of T.V. A constant bombardment on the way we live our lives each day, is in complete contrast to the way GOD and his holy church teaches us. In these modern times it is possible our Catholic Faith could disappear amid the glitz and glamour of this world. To worship these things that do not speak to us, recognise us, or love us, is not religion. There are but two things in the whole universe, OUR OWN SOUL AND THE GOD WHO MADE IT. Perishable life disappears, riches fly away, and popularity is fickle, old friends die, the world changes. We all seek happiness, but few find it due to our quest for earth-bound things such as possession of wealth or power, or indulgence in the pleasures of the senses. It is true that we are weak and our powers are limited but, by means of prayer which unites us to a God of infinite power and love, we can obtain grace, which makes easy what otherwise would be too difficult or impossible. Many people shy away from the Christian way of life because it involves self-denial but, if people are prepared to submit themselves to great sacrifice for reasons of temporal security, why not for eternal security. We cannot live a Christian life without prayer. Yet we often pray with difficulty, distraction and complaint

I am distracted when I pray

God does not seem to answer my prayer

I do not feel any satisfaction in prayer.

We feel our prayers are not heard and do us no good. The reason for comments such as these is that prayer is often misunderstood. I believe we have the wrong idea of the principle of prayer and its fruits. We tend to judge prayers effectiveness by concrete, sensible, and immediate results, by the results produced for oneself or for others. If religion is to be devotion, and not to be a mere matter of sentiment. We must increase our knowledge of God before we can feel love, fear, hope, or trust towards him. The very idea of Christianity in its profession and history is a definite message from God to man, distinctly convey to us by his chosen instruments, to be positively embraced and acknowledged as true on the grounds of it being divine. If we allow ourselves to float down the current of the world, living as other men, gathering up our notions of religion here and there, as it may be, we have little or no true idea of a particular area. We conceive that Almighty God works on a large plan, but we cannot realize the wonderful truth that he sees and thinks of us as individuals. We cannot believe he is really present everywhere, that he is everywhere we are, though unseen. We cannot bring ourselves to get hold of the fact that he sees what is going on among ourselves at this moment; that one man may fall, and another man may be exalted, at God's silent appointment the timid need to be reminded that the Christian message is one of good news. That is what the word GOSPEL means. It is a message of reconciliation between God and man, and telling us in the clearest possible terms that there is a life beyond the grave, a life far richer than any life here on earth. So as Catholics, we must turn back to god or suffer the consequences of our actions. Ask yourselves this, either there is no God, or we know there truly is, the human race is out joint with the purpose of its CREATOR. We are created by a God who loves us. A God who created the human race TO LOVE, HONOUR, SERVE, OBEY, and to GLORIFY HIM To believe in God, is to believe the being and presence of one who is all holy, and all powerful, and all gracious; how can a man really believe this of him and make free with him? It is almost a contradiction in terms. Even pagan religions considered faith and reverence identical.

## THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

We have now begun the countdown to Christmas. The hurrying and scurrying about, anxious moments, financial worries etc. Must not forget the tree, lights, toys, presents, Christmas cards, food, wine, what is on T V, and much more. When and where does it all stop? Strangely something is missing. I forgot; Christ is missing. Nothing strange about that, He has been missing now for a couple of decades or more. This brings me to ask the question, why is it still called Christmas when Christ is missing. This amazes me, knowing that the birth of Christ is one of the three most important moments in the history of the human race. The acceptance of our Blessed Mother to become the Mother of God, the birth of Christ, the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. On that holy night, heaven was so full of joy, God sent a choir of angels to announce in song, the wonder of this birth, Glory to God in the highest. This night has been celebrated for over two thousand years worldwide. Alas this devotion has been replaced by pagan rituals. The hymn now says, Glory to the God of the high street. Our obsessions for worldly things, leaves us with a void, emptiness. By boxing day when all the turkey and ham has disappeared, T.V. is lousy, we are usually left with that deflated feeling. Our minds now dwell on the coming new year. Prospects of the coming year bring with it the normal uncertainty, boring prospects of another year. Take note, this mind set is of our own choosing. By omitting Christ from our lives, we have abandoned the true source of love, hope, and joy, namely Jesus Christ our saviour. It is God's love that gives us the strength and purpose to face all the new year will bring. Let the material world belong to the very young at Christmas, while we can enhance their joy, by turning more to the spiritual message of Christmas. Try to live this message of love and hope every day.

We need to focus on our eternal future. If we are not certain about our faith in God, the concept of eternal life is likely to become meaningless to us, like a fairy-tale that many people have outgrown. If Christ is distant and Christ is the one who brings us to eternal life, then eternal life must also be distant, and therein lies the root of most of our problems. By praying to God through His Blessed Mother it will be a reality for us to recover, no matter how slowly, our faith, trust, and love of God takes. The salvation of our souls and that of our families lie in the choice we and our families make. That is the true meaning of Christmas. Have a holy and wonderful Christmas.

May God bless you and all your families wherever they are.

## ETERNAL LIFE

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, promised us eternal life if we stay faithful to His teachings. Here is a question, how many of us ever give much thought to what that really means? There is no easy answer. However I will attempt to voice my own views on this topic, and pray that they may steer some souls back to God.

Let us start with the grey-haired brigade, of which I am proud to be a member of. The old, the wrinkled and tired members of our faith, without whose courage and staying power there would be no faith in the world today. Now compare the age of an eighty-year-old soul with that of the soul of a newly born baby who has just been baptised. We cannot, there is none. All souls are ageless and eternal. It is only the body in which the soul is encased, that ages due to it being temporary. During its stay in the body the soul does not age, what it does is, increase its knowledge of God, of life, wisdom add love. The spiritual growth of a soul depends on the will of the person in whose body it resides. The soul will live on after its earthly body dies, for the soul is life.

Eternal life in its entirety means a complete union with God in paradise. Eternal death is the complete separation from God to the realm of Satan in hell. That is why we should never forget when all earthly creation has ended; every soul will receive its new body, irrespective of where their destination lies. The Lord God Himself has assured us of this. Through some of the teachings of the church fathers, we have come to understand, in all probability; the moment we leave this body we gain all Gods knowledge of creation. If so, it would give us a clearer understanding of purgatory. For reasons, known only to God, we are not ready for union with God and we are sent there to be purged of any remaining defects. Unfortunately with our new found knowledge of God causes great distress, until we are fully united in God. I believe this is the real agony of purgatory.

We who remain on earth must constantly pray for the speedy release of the holy souls. About hell no comment is needed. I hope and pray that people will understand the Importance of staying close to God, by means of his established church here on earth. We must take advantage of all the graces, Christ earned for us on Calvary. A greater effort is needed if we are to change our way of life

We need to focus on our spiritual life and less on the things of this life if we are to avoid the gates of hell. There are no ifs, ands, or buts, this is a must. Seventy per cent of Catholics living in the western world have been lured away from the church, being brainwashed into believing the world has the answer to all our problems. Its offer of happiness, peace, joy, prosperity, and a distorted sense of love, is utter rubbish. Take a moment; ponder on the state of today's world. You will realise the emptiness of these promises. Sadly, separation from God and His church has little or no consequence to very many Catholics today. The demise of the faith among the laity is due to their lack of knowledge of it. Failure to know about God and His Blessed Mother, and failure to involve them in our daily lives has led to this disaster. But we must never lose hope in God. No one, absolutely no one, is ever beyond the saving grace of God. We have only to seek that grace and it will be granted. That is the choice every one of us has to make. God does not force anyone to love Him. He offers us the choice of eternal life or eternal death. God's desire is for every soul to pick life and He encourages us to do so every day of our lives. However God will respect any decision we make and on that decision we will be judged accordingly. We must be more attentive to Gods words preached by the priests at every mass. It is through the ear the word of God reaches the soul. Eternal life is forever, be it in paradise or hell, a truth we cannot escape from. GOD BLESS

## THE FOUR LAST THINGS

Knowledge of the last four things must be examined by all Catholics, to enhance the spiritual wellbeing of their lives. The church, for some obscure reason appears to avoid these topics. So by the lack of information, it devalues their existence. One possible reason for this is that the laity, by dwelling too long on them bring about fear and anxiety. It is important that we are well informed about them. I agree we should not linger too long on them. So what are the four last things? Death, Judgement, Heaven, Hell. Upsetting, yes, but we must not be afraid of events that are certain to come about. We know very little about death, except, for Catholics it is the gateway to eternal life. On arrival we will have to give an account, to God, of how we lived our lives here on earth, and be judged on their merits. The outcome of that judgement is known only to God. All verdicts will be revealed on judgement day. True fact is, the belief in future punishment will not pass away without it causing a grave injustice to our Creator. By ignoring it we weaken our faith in God. The doctrine of atonement also suffers when future punishment is tampered with, as it was Christ who took the place of man to atone for our sins. How will this doctrine stand if final punishment is denied? Everyone who escapes eternal death does so by the virtue of the atonement. So great a price was paid for that undertaking supposes an unimaginable debt. If the need be denied will not the sacrifice be unthinkable. A word of caution, it is not wise to get too precise in our thinking, it is enough to know that before God our fate, a destiny that cannot be fully imagined or understood in this life. The judgement of God is carried out in perfect justice, perfect knowledge, and perfect mercy and all verdicts are final. This knowledge should bring hope to all peoples of the world as we ponder the evils of this world today.

To know that, no matter what, true justice will prevail. Sadly it seems as if humanity is on a collision course with its Creator. By its evil and depraved mentality, the world is suffering wars, famines, drug abuse, and sexual abuse worldwide and an anti-Christ philosophy that enters every home via the media, T.V, Internet, etc. However, the many faithful who persevere in the love and the service of God must take heart from what is written in this blog. God's mercy will see us home. Every human being since the dawn of time till the end of time will have to give an account of how they lived their lives here on earth, even down to the very hairs on your head, answerable to God for their actions. What of the others who refuse to listen? Well, they are taking a big risk by ignoring God's love and His mercy. They must give serious thought to change their lives while they still can. God's love and mercy is open to every soul up to the moment of death. In all honesty, it is too serious to gamble on waiting till the very end for anyone to change. In fact its eternal suicide. The church and the faithful must focus their prayers and their actions towards the salvation of lost souls. Without final judgement, all lives are incomplete. We have forgotten how to look ahead. How can we claim our lives have dignity if we are held accountable for nothing? In a way to deny judgement is subtly to deny God. Our aim must be to regain our firm trust in Jesus, His mercy, His love, and live the way He taught us. The reward for this commitment is eternal life in HEAVEN.

## MINDSET

Such a small word made up of only seven letters, yet it is of great significance in the depth of its meaning. Dating back to before the fall of mankind. Mindset, or otherwise, to set your mind on anyone or anything. In time this usually happens without our being aware of it. When humanity resided in paradise, we were fully focused on God and His holy will. We know via biblical history Adam was approached by the leader of a higher ranked creative beings called angels, better known today as Satan. He was of the highest rank in the angelic creation. Though he had everything, he encouraged one third of the angels to rebel against God. His intentions, to remove God, and take His place. Due to the many angels who remained loyal to God, Satan and his followers were defeated and banished from heaven for all eternity. Because of his defeat, his hatred for God and all that belongs to God, especially the human race, exists to this very day. Unfortunately he was able to persuade Adam and the rest of humanity to change their minds and rebel against God which led to our banishment from heaven. We must never forget and always be thankful to the love, mercy, and understanding of our God our banishment was not permanent. Yet God kept a relationship with Adam and his descendants, encouraging them to keep focused on Him and the place they had come from. This mindset was carried on down through the ages, via, Abraham, Moses, Joseph etc. God promised a saviour would come; repay man's debt and reconcile man with God. A saviour who would reopen the gates of heaven to all souls who would listen His word and obey His will. With the coming of Christ, this promise was fulfilled. From its apostolic origin, the Catholic Church has remained faithful to Christ's teaching, encouraging all to keep focused on God and our spiritual destiny.

Tragically in the last one hundred years the church has become weaker and so has our faith. In today's world, Satan appears to be winning battle after battle, for control of our hearts and minds. All that Christ and His church have taught us seems to have been discarded in favour of the things of this world. Our mindset is absorbed by, money, power, TVs, internet etc. Morally we have turned this world into a toxic wasteland. Know this, Satan cannot make us bad, but he can make us busy, so busy we have no time for God. A great spiritual battle still rages around us between God and Satan for the hearts and minds of all souls. I believe we have come to a most critical time in our existence. With most of the world's communication aids at his beck and call, he has reached into every home in western society and has control of their mindsets. Prayer is the safeguard to all who remain faithful to God and will be safe under His protection. This evil will only be defeated by the intervention of God Himself. This I believe is inevitable. What is most frightening, at what cost to the human race will this action bring? We must listen to our Blessed Mother's appeal to the church worldwide, repent, change your mind set and pray more often, especially family prayer. Ask yourselves this question, what is it worth to me to keep my children out of hell? In these daunting times we must involve God more in our daily lives and learn to trust more in His love and His mercy and pray for the graces to see us through. All else must be a poor second.

**MAY THE BLESSINGS OF GOD AND HIS HOLY MOTHER ENTER INTO ALL YOUR HEARTS AND REMAIN THERE FOREVER, AMEN. GOD BLESS**

## THE CHURCH AND THE SACRAMENTS

If we extinguish God in us through serious sin; if we banish Him from our souls, we have separated ourselves and alienated ourselves from God. We have chosen eternal nothingness. We have chosen Hell. Yet it would be foolish and lacking in our trust in God to focus unduly on the fear of hell. Keep in mind, without God's help we could slip and fall a great distance. Our main concern should be about those who appear to be turning away from God's Kingdom, promised by JESUS CHRIST. Pray and reach out to those in danger of eternal loss. Remember that this awful possibility is not imposed on us by God, but we impose it on ourselves. It is imperative then we remain under the protection of the church and avail ourselves of the sacraments. Frequent attendance at Mass and monthly confession will keep us close to God. The simple fact that Christ's words in the gospel give the highest authority eternal punishment. The words of Saint Paul and the author of the Apocalypse—when considered with Christ's teachings make the presence of Hell undeniable. We must never forget the perfection of God's justice demands it.

## NO TIME

Our lives are so squashed up, the world seems to be rushing by. All hurry – scurry, no time to reflect on God. Life is so chock – a – block, not a minute to spare. We have become forgetful of the things that matter most. Things more important than missing an episode of your favourite soap, football match, etc. YOUR SOUL. If we are going to rush about for anything at all let it be for love of God and love of neighbour. Here is a thought to ponder. To try to understand how one drop of water means so much. Drops mingle, trickle into rivulets, flow into streams, run into rivers, empty into oceans. So with each drop of love, I can give when mingling with others love, becomes a stream, runs into rivers, a torrent to fill the face of the earth. The worth of every drop of love, so precious in the giving, encourage everyone to do so, making this world a better place to live in.

## TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Now more than ever, in our present age, Catholics need to remain steadfast in their faith. As Catholics this is their solemn duty. Unbelief has carried its insolence to its very limit, boldly claiming that there is no God. We must profess our faith openly and fearlessly, holding on to our love for Christ and his church. We live in a world that takes everything for granted, our God, our faith, our church, and in the way we live our lives. God has been placed on the back burner, only to be called on in emergencies, no longer having any influences on our lives. This leads to, why pass on to our children, something we have no faith in. Active involvement in the church, and spiritual teaching in the homes is disappearing rapidly, and therein lies our greatest problem. It appears to me the church is either unwilling or unable to address this problem. To many Catholics, the church has hung the laity out to dry, in other words to fend for themselves. Our faith has always been supported by strong leadership and sustained in most catholic homes. This is no longer happening. To continue in this way will only lead to the exclusion of God and the perils these actions will bring. Sadly this attitude not only affects the adult population but children as well. Most people I believe are unaware of this. Most sermons preached fail to inform the people about the consequences of their actions. Talking to many young people in the parish I live in express little or no interest in God or prayer. If a survey was taken throughout the parishes, 80/90 per cent would be of the same opinion. The clergy must focus their efforts to counteract this chain of thought. A massive problem indeed. But I guess the Apostles, in their time, faced the same problems. Thankfully we have more going for us than they had. Today the church tells us not to worry or be anxious, God is in control.



God has always been in control. Unfortunately the church is not. Until the church speaks with one united voice, God's hands are tied. God has given us a free will, and pledged Himself never to destroy it. No matter how we defy God or shriek against Him, He will not destroy our great gift of freedom. Christianity is a religion of the world, it is for the busy, the influential, the rich, the employed as well as the poor. Yet it is very difficult to realise both these truths at once. The rich and the busy, though not in themselves heavenly, can in most cases, be after all steps that leads us to God. We must apply all that we do in this life as steps leading to God. We must never forget that a final judgement awaits us all. To continue to blot out this belief will severely damage the future of our faith. By doing so, we may be weakening its warning voice, and losing an ever-present reminder of an unseen God. Heaven is a supernatural gift far above the capacity to achieve through our merits. God's graces are needed if anyone is to attain heaven. We must not shut Him out of our lives. All the graces necessary to reach heaven have been promised to the human race, as the fruits of our prayers. And when we pray for others, it is to help them to reach heaven, no matter how far from its path they have strayed. Our prayers for others should be humble and trusting. We must pray with perseverance trust. Do not forget God is always faithful to his promises. GOD BLESS.

## THE SILENCE OF THE LAMB

Just stop for a moment and give some thought to this title. Ponder on its meaning and see how much truth lies therein. Is it possible, Christ is being silenced everywhere in the world? Has the Catholic Church been so eroded by today's world? In the past, in all Christian countries, the strength of the church was able to curtail, governments of legislating anti-Christ polices. How different it is today. A world where Christian ethics are outlawed by those whose aim is to destroy the Catholic Church worldwide. This victory would lead to an anything goes society. Abortion, compulsory civil marriages, promotion of immorality, take care of the strong and abandon the weak, cater for the rich by robbing the poor. Anyone who is a liability or financial burden on the state would be isolated. Sound familiar? It is. They are the policies that enthroned Adolf Hitler to power, while the world stood idly by twiddling its thumbs. The church, strong as it was then also kept silent. The question I ask now, when is the church, worldwide going to wake up and address these evils that confronts us? A strong spiritual revival is needed to combat evil no matter what the cost. We can no longer stand idly by while millions of souls are being lost. Strong leadership must come from the guardians of the flock before they have to leave the one and go after the rest. Depressing yes, but not hopeless. Perhaps we need a few John the Baptists, or St Pauls, to invigorate our dying church. To passionately act and preach of the great love and mercy our God has for His creatures by upholding the truth. While Christ's love can envelope us, we will never understand it. For example, do children trust their parents because they have proved to themselves that they are trustworthy and desire to do so, or is it from the instinct of affection?

We believe because we love, and that is the honest truth. How can we encourage them who doubt this, to believe? There are many who for various reasons have abandoned their faith. All must come to terms that faith is the medium in which the soul sees Christ. It is colourless, like air or water. Unfortunately many are bent on holding it in their hands. They substitute it for a feeling, a notion, sentimentally or an act of reason on which they indulge in or dote upon. Rather, they aim at experiences within them than at Him who is beyond them. In faith we must believe, Our Lord is truly and really present in the forms of bread and wine. We do not know how; we have no parallel to the how in our experience. We can only believe that he is present, not according to natural manner, but sacramentally. If the church can encourage the laity to unite in prayer for stronger faith, we will involve God more and more in world affairs and thus defeat the evil that enslaves us. Without God we face total defeat of ourselves and our children. Any Catholics who profess their belief in God but do not pray daily is a contradiction in its very nature. They are only fooling themselves. Throughout the old and new testaments, God decreed that the human race must pray daily. To do so is the answer to the world's problems and keep us on the road to salvation. Prayer is not just a mumble of words that come out of our mouths. It is the thoughts of our hearts that must be expressed by our words. Prayer is a means to an end. The end being that thoughts and words become actions. In politics many countries strive for the unification of their nations. In our church unity does not exist at parish level, parishes live in isolation of one another, all are detached from their spiritual centre: ROME: Unification of the whole church needs to be addressed earnestly if our faith is to survive much longer. Pray every day for unity, from pope to pauper. Do not be silent, let Christ's voice be heard through us everywhere in the world (LOUDLY). GOD BLESS

## SUSTAINING THE FAITH

The church, founded by Christ and bestowed to the apostles continues to this day in their successors, for the purpose of protecting, preserving, and declaring the word of God throughout the world, and that message entrusted to it is infallible. If we consider the world in its length and breadth, its various histories, the greatness and the littleness of man, his short duration 'The dreary irreligion, the intensity of sin: All this inflicts on the mind a profound mystery, which is absolutely beyond human solution'. However, with clearer teaching from the church the laity can be encouraged to change their attitudes to God and start coming back to Him.

## STATIONS FOR SALVATION



Stations offered for:

1. The Catholic Church  
Worldwide.
2. The Salvation of all souls.

We must measure up what we  
give to God, against what we  
give to this World.

### A GRIM OUTLOOK FOR OUR CHURCH

Throughout human history, there has been an almost universal recognition that at the end of time we will all render some kind of an account of our lives, to God. Even when the understanding of the one God is clouded and confused. Every culture has a strong sense, that they will be judged by their maker. So as Catholics, do we ever ponder about what we will be judged on? The most significant act in the history of the human race has been passed down the centuries until this present day, the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. What then was the reason for Christ's suffering? Because He and only He was capable of paying the price of our freedom demanded by the will of the Lord our God. His passion restored to fallen mankind, what the original human race (ADAM & EVE) had lost by their disobedience, in that they sinned against God's law. In rejecting God, they began to love themselves and many other things more than they loved God, who must be first in everyone's hearts. By their actions they lost, not only for themselves, but for generations to come, the gift of eternal life. After the fall, human desires became more self-seeking and confused. Christ's coming reinstated our intimate relationship with God, new offer of eternal life, and the proper meaning of love: sacrifice. In short, words are cheap.

Christ also came to destroy the works of Satan. He (Satan) markets sin as liberating but is the exact opposite (slavery). We live in a permissive society that embraces sin as a virtue. Our choice is simple. There are the ways of God, and there the ways of this world, two different ways for humanity to live. Unfortunately the message of the world's media is often portrayed as, that anything goes and sin is no big deal. Even sections of our church play down the gravity of sin. This attitude has led many Catholics to reject the confessional, to abandon prayer, and eventually disregard God by their non-attendance at holy mass. This approach could draw many souls towards the gates of hell and eternal damnation. Our sins are often rooted in our greed, lust, pride, envy, etc. Moreover, choosing the evils of this world can be very attractive. Our free will, given to us by God has allowed us the freedom of choice, to follow God's way, or follow the ways of this world. We must be in no doubt the fate of all who ignore God's way and the vast rewards for all who follow His ways. If we decide to pursue God's way, we must do so by action and not just words. With stronger guidance and greater support from the church many souls could be won back for our God. In the last one hundred years the church has become weak due to the disunity among the clergy who many themselves have become more worldly and less spiritual. Their failure to inform the people of the way they are living their lives, and the outcome of their actions will bring, to clearly explain the obligations of what it means being baptised a Catholic and the importance of what is expected of them. If people think that sin is trivial, and their commitment to God trifling. Take a good look at the crucifix. That is what God did for us, and that's what sin did to GOD. In most families today spiritual growth is almost non-existent. It is as though the Catholic faith was living on borrowed time, especially in the west. This exodus can be slowed down if we seriously turn back to God.

To love God and one another will take a big effort on the part of those who do so. The clergy and the laity must stand up and speak the truth. To become united as one under God. God's primary aim is the salvation of souls and it must be ours also. This world which has existed so long in the grip of fear, of dying, of suffering, poverty, of evil, it seems almost impossible to get our minds around a kingdom where none of these things exist. But that is a perfectly human reaction to the world in which we live. We are pressurised daily by the evils that surrounds us. I was told, many years ago, faith was believing in something you cannot understand. The love, beauty, joy, and happiness of heaven is not a myth or a fairy-tale. It is a reality. It is a mystery to be enjoyed, not to be analysed or understood, for there is nothing in this life that comes anywhere near the splendour of seeing God face to face. That is what we must strive to achieve, for ourselves and our families.

## Sin - An Act of Evil

The reality of sin is in truth an Act of Evil. In today's modern world, the intensity of sin and its corruptions is widespread: immorality, pornography, idolatries, hopeless irreligion—all of this is a vision to appal and inflict on the mind a profound mystery, which is completely beyond human solution. One possible answer is, that either there is no God, or mankind is in a true sense discarded from his presence: Since there is a God, a God of love and mercy, then the human race is implicated in some terrible calamity, in fact it is out of joint with the purpose of its creator. Why are there so much conflicting feelings in the devotion of Christianity? Is it because the Christian has a Revelation of God? He knows that God alone is Holy; He knows that in God alone there is one to whom he owes everything. And for that reason they do not please him, they succeed in pleasing themselves. As for that Imperfect range of duties, which fall far short of God's Law, is just what they can fulfil. Thus they become self satisfied and self sufficient.

They think they know what they ought to do and they do it all. In doing so they are well content with themselves. What shall we say of God's Judgement of them? What about their souls? Ah, we have forgotten that. But it remains from first to last in the sight of its maker. About their souls the world cares nought, it does not recognise them, it only cares about those who are here now. Yet time after time many are called to leave here and will find themselves there. They have gone out of sight amid the shadows of that unseen world about which the visible world is so sceptical. The weak influential effect of the Church on the laity, man's utter inability to gain heaven by anything he can do himself, the moral certainty of losing his soul if left to himself. Our one great hope of gaining heaven is to place all our trust in Christ our Saviour and the Immaculate Heart of our Blessed Mother.

Their messages are plain and simple: Prayer and Fasting

These messages must be heeded by everyone. Failure to do so can lead to eternal damnation. They must be done, not just words, but actions also.

You must:

- (1) Attend Holy Mass as often as possible
- (2) Commit oneself to a daily Rosary
- (3) Avail yourselves of the Sacraments

Things to keep in mind at all times:

The Church is not the inventor of the truth but the custodian of it. Christ reaches us today through his Sacraments. The Sacraments are the means to unite us to God. The Religion of the Pharisees is the Religion of Mankind

Take Notice: If we can cope with the lockdown for the sake of our bodies, we can cope with Prayer and Sacrifices for the sake of our souls. As with regard to this world and all it contains, is but a mere shadow, dust and ashes, compared with the value of one soul.

## WHO IS LIKE UNTO OUR GOD?

A cry that echoed throughout the heavens by the Archangel Michael in defence of God, His love, and His laws. Today (Lucifer or Satan) has raised his standard once again, only this time here on earth. His call to rally to him with promises to rid us of God and free to live our lives as we choose. Worldwide, but especially in the western world, thousands are rallying to his call, including a large percentage of Catholics. Through the power of international communications systems, he is able to reach into the heart of every home. The power of television to disorientate the mind and focus it on nothing else but worldly goods, immorality, and self-indulgence. This attitude has caused many Catholics to reject God and follow the materialistic road that leads to eternal death. For the many who still remain faithful to God we must rally to His standard THE CROSS; There we will find our Blessed Mother, St Michael, and the angels, and all the Saints doing battle for us. Here on earth, we have the Church and the Sacraments in which we have the love and protection of our GOD. By constant prayer, good deeds, GOD will surely bring us home. These are very worrying times for all. We must pray frequently not just for our families, pray for our neighbours, pray for the world. Prayer is a great weapon against evil, but good deeds need to flow from it. Words without deeds are useless. Returning to mass with your families to praise and honour GOD would be a massive step towards their salvation. Taking part in the sacraments (confession etc) with fervour and commitment will surely increase the faith in our parishes. If we truly value our souls and those of our children over worldly things, we must make the effort to change it is too late. Just think in a short period of time say (20 years) will a priest be available to celebrate mass, anoint the sick, hear confessions, bless marriages, christen our young, pray over our dead? Salvation is a serious business. One has only to look at the CROSS to see how serious GOD believed it to be. We must turn to our Blessed Mother to assist us in our daily efforts to follow GOD. Ask help from your guardian angel, pray earnestly to the saints for their intercessions. Do this and without any shadow of a doubt we will all meet in heaven.

## COME FOLLOW ME

These words spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ to the Apostles, over two thousand years ago, has continued down through the centuries to this present day. Religious vocation is a very precious gift which is reserved for a few who are frowned upon, especially at this present time. The Church weathering these storms, could elevate its position in the world to a dimension of love and safety. The Apostles opened the way, which was followed uninterrupted by their successors. The Apostles and their successors were called to fulfil Christ's Ministry, in the preaching of the truth, administration of the Sacraments, the celebration of Holy Mass, Confession, comforting the afflicted, the poor and all of God's people. It is a great gift of God, that of a vocation, a 'double gift' for the priest himself and for the people who benefit from his assistance. However, a vocation carries with it a great responsibility to respond to this call. The Priesthood has taken a devastating hammer-blow by the evils and scandals over the last hundred years. But the resilience by the many faithful priests who remained steadfast to their calling for the Salvation of the souls of all God's people who still remain faithful. Many people do not grasp the true value of the Priesthood, that to spread God's word entails great sacrifices, living in isolation, and much prayer. For example, when we gather to celebrate Holy Mass, it is the Priest who is the Celebrant and who invites us to join with him. If for instance nobody turned up for Mass, the Priest will still celebrate Mass to the Glory of God. When we fall from God's grace by sinning, a Priest is there to reconcile us to God in the Confessional, the Anointing of the sick, the Blessing of Marriages, christening of new-born babies, Funeral Services and much more is done on our behalf. So the next time we come in contact with any Priest, treat them with love and respect, for they are truly worthy of it. It is easy to criticise, but criticism is acceptable only if it is constructive.

Criticism for its own sake is useless and empty. I plead guilty to judging Priests because sometimes I would want things done differently for my own selfish reasons. The many, many sacrifices young men have made to join the Priesthood should prove they care about us, and truly love us. So whoever reads my blogs, I implore you to Pray daily for our Priests, from our Holy Father the Pope to the Parish Priests.

## IN WHAT DIRECTION?

One thing we are most certain of, if we survive birth, then we are sure of only one outcome, death. Everything in between is fraught with uncertainties. In short, death is only a doorway leading to eternal life. This death of the body brings to an end our life here on earth. Our eternal existence continues by the life in our souls {Gods great gift to humanity} and at some future point, by God's will, our souls will inhabit new immortal bodies. Christian teaching tells us of two kingdoms in the afterlife Gods kingdom, and the domain of Satan. After judgement in which direction will we go?

This will depend on how we chose to live our lives here on earth. God loves us and wants us to follow his ways, giving us every aid to help us stay on the road to heaven. The ways of this world will only lead to eternal damnation. That choice is ours alone to make. There is no freedom of choice after death. It is my belief the church has been very slow to pick up on God's judgement and the day of the last judgement. Every day we are told of God's love and mercy of which I have no shadow of doubt. Yet nothing is spoken of his justice. Across the world millions are suffering great injustices, starvation, sickness, moral corruption, greed, power, etc, and only faith in God's justice can this be reconciled. Life on this earth is not easy for anyone, especially Christians.

Never forget that every day of Christ's public ministry was fraught with dangers. Constant debates with the church of his time, healing of the sick, spiritual and body, teaching of the apostles and much more. His love for us was matched by his commitment, endurance, and the ability to overcome hardships, devoting all his energy to the tasks allotted to him. What can we do to follow Him? Positive action is a must, no easy way, no short cuts. We must lessen our desires for the things of this life and focus on things of the next life. If we are to give ourselves any chance of reaching heaven, we must include God in our everyday affairs. If we say we love God, we must attend mass as often as we deem possible and partake fully in the sacraments. Prayer is God's shield against evil. The quality of prayer is more important than the quantity. This is our insurance of eternal life; we have God's solemn promise on this. Without God there is only darkness and despair. It would be unwise in times like ours to lose sight of the grim reality, that eternal loss is always with us. All who turn to Christ will be saved. It is up to us to turn from sin and humbly accept what God so gracefully offers us through His infinite love. We must take courage and remember Christ's climb to Calvary. He was spat upon, insults hurled at Him, beaten to the ground. During all this Christ was comforted by a young woman (Veronica) offering Him a cup of water. Our cups of water are our masses and our prayers to console Him in these evil times.

## THE BEAUTY OF MOTHERHOOD

Numerous titles have been bestowed on our Blessed Mother throughout the ages. But of all the titles ever attributed to her, either by the angels or human beings, pale into insignificance in the light of one title, MOTHER OF GOD, given to her by the creator of all life, God Himself. Then what wonder, what beauty, what splendour is encompassed in the title of motherhood. Every woman blessed by the gift of bringing forth life, should be honoured and respected by all humanity. Regrettable as it is, this modern world however, has dishonoured, degraded, and turned the female form into objects of desire, lust, to be used or abused, to further its own ends, of a corrupt, unscrupulous world, filled with an obsession for power, greed, and control. This blog is a response to an incident I saw on the national T.V. News concerning a young mother who was breast feeding her infant child in the premises of a well known London Hotel. She was approached by the hotel's Manager, who requested could she cover up the action she was doing as it was unsettling to many of the clientele using the hotel. In an act of courtesy, he acquired a tablecloth to assist her. His explanation was that it was in line with the Hotel's policy. I have a query to put to this Manager. Has he ever observed the females who frequent his hotels and discos especially at weekends? If he had done so, and carried out hotel policy, he would have been compelled to refuse entry to at least seventy per cent of them due to the mode of clothing they were wearing. As in all probability they were revealing more of their breasts than this young mother was revealing. This blog, I must state, is not to criticise modern day fashion or how women dress. It is a criticism of the failure of the hotel, to explain was it the showing of her breast, which was not evident on T.V or the sight of a young baby feeding that is against hotel policy that promoted him to take this action?

And what did the customers find offensive, the revealing of her breast, the baby feeding, or both? How can any normal society accept this as justifiable behaviour? Yet deem breast feeding in public uncomfortable? The western world allegedly champions the cause of human rights and moral standards, but everyone knows this to be farcical as it is well known that it is the monetary system that set the standards. We as Christians have to depend on our churches and its shepherds for leadership and guidance, but in recent years they have become silent on many serious matters that concern the laity. Reasons that are known only to themselves. In a sense we have almost been deserted. I believe that their concerns for worldly aims is at the detriment of spiritual growth. The failure of all Christian sects to unite as one in this battle against evil unnerves me. Any more failure to act will only drive home the final nails in the coffin of Christianity. This act of disrespect to motherhood and many other evils is affront in the eyes of God. We profess our love for God, but we fail to show it. We must wake up to God's will and his teachings and start to act before it is too late. Christ will be victorious in the end. We must be determined to share in that victory or lose everything

HAVE A HOLY AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS, AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

GOD BLESS EVERYONE

## What does it mean to be baptised into the Roman Catholic Church?

Primarily we gain all the gifts earned by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on the cross on Calvary. Through his established church, with 2000 years of experience behind it, our chances of gaining eternal life is greatly enhanced within the family of the church. When our Lord went up on high, he left his representative behind him, and this was his HOLY CHURCH, his mystical body and bride, a divine institution, an organ of the Holy Spirit, who speaks through the church until the end of time. In as far as Humanity is concerned, the clergy, chosen by God, are the Guardians and Administrators of God's gifts (The Sacraments) spread and deliver Christ's message to the world. During those 2000 years The Church has been ever militant, sometimes The Church gains, sometimes The Church loses, and more often than not, while The Church is gaining The Church is losing also, in different parts of its territory.

The record of church history is one then of ever doubtful fortunes in the battle against evil, though the final victory is never in doubt. Scarcely is The Church triumphant when it is visited by a scandal. No sooner are we at peace when it is suddenly thrown into persecution. Our triumphs are closely followed by our setbacks, but the church makes progress by its trials and tribulations, its grief, and its consolations. "The kingdom of God spreads externally because it has an internal hold upon us, because, in the words of the text, it is within us', in the hearts of its individual members. Bystanders marvel: strangers try to analyse what it is that does the work; they imagine all manner of human reasons and natural causes to account for it, because they cannot see, and do not feel, and will not believe, what is in truth a supernatural influence" Up until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the secret power of divine grace has been held together, not by the Bishops, but by the strong Faith of the ordinary laity. Sadly, with the advancement in the materialistic, e.g. Science, T.V. internet etc. This strength is fading rapidly and needs to be addressed.

## MOTHER OF GOD, QUEEN OF HEAVEN, MOTHER TO THE HUMAN RACE

The (Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin) affirms that together with the nature which she inherited from her parents, that is her own nature, she had a complete fullness of Grace, and that from the first moment of her existence. Is it surprising then that on one hand she should be Immaculate in her Conception? Or on the other hand that she should be Honoured with an Assumption and exalted as a Queen? Only God and he alone has an entrance into our souls, speaks to our heart, applies to us personal spiritual strength and pardon. Mary only our Mother by Divine appointment. So as the Mother of God, Mother of Humanity, she is also Mother of the Eucharist. She knows what it means for us to be with God, in the way he is offered in the Eucharist. For this reason, she invites us to live the Eucharist, so that Mass is life and life is Mass. Let us never forget that our Holy Mother's work is not one of Administration toward us, her power is indirect. It is her prayers as the Mother of our Saviour that benefits us in our daily struggles.



## SACRIFICES, EMOTIONS, AND COMMITTEMENTS

What is it that we as Catholics lack? My belief is this, an unwillingness to be changed, and an unwillingness to suffer. We do not like to let go of our old selves. But when we come to God to be saved, we must surrender ourselves completely to Him. To learn not to react to insults, to give up an advantage etc. for God's sake, has in it a power outweighing all the pretence of mere profession. Deeds speak louder than words. To introduce God back into the life of every family will take a great deal of courage and sacrifice. Both parents must commit themselves to this action. No human mind can ever grasp the rewards of such actions. An eternal life of love, joy, and peace are beyond our greatest imagination. The alternative is too frightening to ponder. No matter how little the change we must begin immediately. Never put off till tomorrow, for tomorrow may never come. If we need encouragement, think of Christ in the garden of Gethsemane. Fearful, lonely, weak, and afraid. But for our salvation He endured it all that we might have eternal life. That at least must be a great incentive for us to change and endure any hardships due to your efforts to change.

## GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

Of all the great gifts God gave to humanity, the greatest of all is Holy Mass. In all probability, the sacrament of confession would be second. At mass we praise, glorify, and express our love to God. We give thanks to God by remembering all he has done for us. Unfortunately, in our human weakness we reject His love, in pursuit of the pleasures of this world. These periods of rejection can last for short times only, or last for many years. Living in modern times our refusal to pay homage to God, and follow the paths of darkness, may become habit forming. We no longer believe we are doing wrong. That is a very dangerous position to be in, as we risk losing our spiritual lives for all eternity. Cut off from God's graces we sink deeper into the mire. But the infinite love of God is always reaching out to every soul, no matter how deep they have sunk. Hence His wonderful gift of confession. For every soul that repents in confession, will receive full absolution and forgiveness. God cannot and will not force us to change. But God and all heaven rejoice in every soul that does repent. A fresh start can then begin for every repentant soul. It is not easy to change on our own. We need the church and the sacraments. Therefore, the church must be more vigorous, more passionate, in their spiritual quest as they are for the material needs of their flock. But the cry these days are (we are so few). Well for starters we have our Pope, plenty of cardinals, to focus on an action plan to counteract the evils that have taken hold a large part of our world today. In my younger days church teaching, that when faced by serious problems, they would seek God's help. This was done by prayer and fasting. I guess this is just wild thinking on my part. To cope with these terrible times greater action is needed from the clergy, and fully supported by the laity.

A question for the laity to ponder, what does it mean for you to be a Catholic? Millions of souls throughout the western world are in grave danger of losing their souls. Yet our priorities are the economy, starvation, sickness, and home comforts. All these things are terrible in their very existence and must be earnestly addressed. But all these evils we will leave behind when we die. We do not take them with us. The sickness of the soul we take with us. After each confessional we know we have been cured. By the grace of God, little or no sickness is left. This cure is available to all souls, no matter how great the sickness or length of time we have it. The cure is instant. All that is needed is truthfulness and honesty, two things we cannot hide from God. Whoever you are, no matter how serious the sins are, God's love and mercy far out strip all the evils of our past lives.

For the sake of our salvation, we must trust in GOD'S MERCY.

GOD BLESS

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# PRAY FOR THE SALVATION OF ALL SOULS

